

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A bush bearing which is a cylindrical bush bearing whose inner peripheral surface is a sliding surface, wherein an outer peripheral surface of the bush bearing has a cylindrical surface and a tapered surface interposed between the cylindrical surface and at least one annular axial end face of the bush bearing and formed by press forming, and if the wall thickness at the cylindrical surface of the bush bearing is assumed to be t , a difference $\delta (= r_1 - r_2)$ between a radius r_1 at the cylindrical surface of the bush bearing and a radius r_2 at an outer peripheral edge of the one annular end face is in a range of not less than $0.1t$ and not more than $0.3t$.

2. (original) The bush bearing according to claim 1, wherein the tapered surface extends in an axial direction continuously from the one annular end face, and the cylindrical surface extends continuously in the axial direction from the tapered surface toward another axial end face of the bush bearing.

3. (currently amended) The bush bearing according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the bush bearing is constituted by a wrapped bush bearing in which a plate having the sliding surface on one surface is convoluted into a cylindrical shape such that the sliding surface is positioned on an inner peripheral side.

4. (original) The bush bearing according to claim 3, wherein the plate is constituted by a multilayered plate which includes a back plate coated with copper, a porous sintered metal layer adhered integrally to a copper coating layer on one surface of the back plate, and a sliding layer including a synthetic resin with which the porous sintered metal layer is impregnated, and which has self-lubricity and wear resistance, a portion of said layer which includes said synthetic resin being formed on one surface of the porous sintered metal layer, and the wrapped bush bearing is formed by convoluting the multilayered plate into the cylindrical shape such that the sliding layer is positioned on the inner peripheral side.

5. (original) The bush bearing according to claim 4, wherein the tapered surface is constituted by an exposed surface of the copper coating layer.

6. (currently amended) The bush bearing according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the tapered surface extends in the axial direction between the cylindrical surface and the one annular end face so as to be flat or convex toward an outside.

7. (currently amended) The bush bearing according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein a smooth circular arc surface is interposed between the tapered surface and the cylindrical surface.

8. (original) The bush bearing according to claim 7, wherein the smooth circular arc surface interposed between the tapered surface and the cylindrical surface has a radius of curvature which is not less than 0.1 mm and not more than 1.0 mm.

9. (currently amended) The bush bearing according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, wherein a smooth circular arc surface is interposed between the tapered surface and the one annular end face.

10. (original) The bush bearing according to claim 9, wherein the smooth circular arc surface interposed between the tapered surface and the one annular end face has a radius of curvature which is not less than 0.1 mm and not more than 0.5 mm.

11. (currently amended) The bush bearing according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, wherein an angle of intersection, θ , between the tapered surface and an axial line is not less than 15° and not more than 25°.

12. (currently amended) The bush bearing according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1, wherein the tapered surface is formed by roll forming.

13. (currently amended) The bush bearing according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1, wherein the outer peripheral surface of the bush bearing further has, in addition to the tapered surface interposed between the cylindrical surface and the one annular

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end face, another tapered surface interposed between the cylindrical surface and the other annular axial end face of the bush bearing and formed by press forming.

14. (original) The bush bearing according to claim 13, wherein the other tapered surface extends in the axial direction continuously from the other annular end face, and the cylindrical surface extends continuously in the axial direction from the other tapered surface toward the one axial end face of the bush bearing.

15. (currently amended) The bush bearing according to claim 13 ~~or 14~~, wherein the other tapered surface extends in the axial direction between the cylindrical surface and the other annular end face so as to be flat or convex toward the outside.

16. (currently amended) The bush bearing according to ~~any one of claims 13 to 15~~
claim 13, wherein a smooth circular arc surface is interposed between the other tapered surface and the cylindrical surface.

17. (original) The bush bearing according to claim 16, wherein the smooth circular arc surface interposed between the other tapered surface and the cylindrical surface has a radius of curvature which is not less than 0.1 mm and not more than 1.0 mm.

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18. (currently amended) The bush bearing according to ~~any one of claims 13 to 17~~
claim 13, wherein a smooth circular arc surface is interposed between the other tapered
surface and the other annular end face.

19. (original) The bush bearing according to claim 18, wherein the smooth circular arc
surface interposed between the other tapered surface and the other annular end face
has a radius of curvature which is not less than 0.1 mm and not more than 0.5 mm.

20. (currently amended) The bush bearing according to ~~any one of claims 13 to 19~~
claim 13, wherein an angle of intersection, θ , between the other tapered surface and the
axial line is not less than 15° and not more than 25° .

21. (currently amended) The bush bearing according to ~~any one of claims 13 to 20~~
claim 13, wherein the other tapered surface is formed by roll forming.

22. (currently amended) The bush bearing according to ~~any one of claims 13 to 21~~
claim 13, wherein the bush bearing is the wrapped bush bearing according to claim 3,
and the plate is the multilayered plate according to claim 4, and wherein the other
tapered surface is constituted by an exposed surface of the copper coating layer.